



APPENDIX OF PENDING CLAIMS FOR SERIAL NO. 09/014,414

- C1
1. A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published to an intended recipient of such electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:
 - retrieving said word to be checked from the unpublished electronic document;
 - selecting a set of filter words in one or more electronic dictionaries to be used for checking said word, said set of filter words being based in part on considering an identity of the intended recipient of the unpublished electronic document, said set of filter words being adjustable on a recipient by recipient basis;
 - determining whether said word has a particular meaning that is (1) designated as offensive in said set of filter words; and/or (2) is designated as potentially inappropriate in said set of filter words for communication to said intended recipient;
 - wherein the unpublished electronic document is checked so as to control initial distribution of such unpublished electronic document to any intended recipients.
 2. The method of claim 1, further including a step of designating said set of filter words by changing a value of a filter status field for words in said one or more electronic dictionaries.
 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the filter status field for each of the words can have one of N values, where $N > 2$, and where N designates whether each of said words is offensive or potentially inappropriate.
 4. The method of claim 2, wherein said set of filter words can be selected without input from an author of the document.
 5. The method of claim 2, wherein an identification of said set of filter words can take place at or about the time said one or more electronic dictionaries are first generated.
 6. The method of claim 1, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that such word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.
 7. The method of claim 3, further including a step of permitting a user to remove said word from said set of filter words.

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8. The method of claim 1, further including a step of verifying the spelling of such word.
9. The method of claim 8, further including a step of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is misspelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word is in said set of filter words.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein a list of documents is checked, and a list of words in such documents that are in said set of filter words is generated.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein said word is checked substantially immediate in time after it is input into said document by a user.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file from said one or more electronic dictionaries for a first audience, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file from said one or more electronic dictionaries for a second audience, and further including a step of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.
13. The method of claim 2, further including a step of specifying a threshold value which the filter status field must exceed in order for said word to be identified as belonging to said set of filter words.

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14. A method of permitting an author of an electronic document to simultaneously check both the spelling and meaning of words in such document comprising the steps of:
- [a] retrieving a word to be spell checked and word checked from said document; and
 - [b] determining whether said word has been spelled correctly; and
 - [c] when said word has been spelled incorrectly, presenting a first list of alternative words to said user as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a first replacement word for said word; and
 - [d] determining whether the meaning of said word or replacement word has a designation as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in a text document, said designation being modifiable by the author; and
 - [e] when said word has been designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, presenting a second list of alternative words to said author as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a second replacement word for said word.
15. The method of claim 14, further including a step (f): permitting said author to select said word, the first replacement word, or the second replacement word.
16. The method of claim 14, further including a step (f): repeating steps [d] and [e] as necessary so that a word is selected that is not designated as potentially inappropriate, or said author is permitted to select a word by manual override.
17. The method of claim 14, further including a step of identifying those words that have a meaning that is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate by changing a value of a status field for such words in an electronic dictionary.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein those words that have an offensive and/or a potentially inappropriate meaning can be identified initially without input from a user of such electronic dictionary.
19. The method of claim 17, wherein an identification of potentially inappropriate words can take place at or about the time the electronic dictionary is first generated.
20. The method of claim 14, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that such word is potentially inappropriate.

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21. The method of claim 14, further including a step of permitting an author to change the value of a status flag for such word.
22. The method of claim 14, wherein said word is checked substantially immediate in time after it is input into said document by the author.
23. The method of claim 14, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file for a first audience, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file for a second audience, and further including a step of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.

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- C3
24. A method of word checking an electronic document authored by a user of a word processing program, said method comprising the steps of:
- storing word-checking status information for said document, including a table identifying offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words used in said document;
 - monitoring interaction between said author and said word processing program to identify idle editing periods;
 - locating offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words in said document during the idle editing periods, and updating the word checking status information in response thereto as needed; and
 - modifying a word filter electronic dictionary containing said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words based on input from the author, so that the author of the electronic document can control which words in said document are to be identified in said table.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the table includes information pertaining to the location in said document of any words that are determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.
26. The method of claim 24, wherein a check of the spelling of such word is also performed.
27. The method of claim 24, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file forming part of said word filter electronic dictionary, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file forming part of said word filter electronic dictionary, and further including a step of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.
28. The method of claim 24, further including a step of permitting the author to specify a rating threshold which must be exceeded in order for said word to be identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.

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29. A method of automatically word checking an electronic document as it is generated by an author and before such electronic document is published, comprising the steps of:
- allowing the author of the electronic document to specify one or more word filter dictionaries to be used for filtering text content of the document, where at least one of said one or more word filter dictionaries is selected based on an intended audience for the electronic document; and
 - monitoring data input by the author during a data input period that is intended to be included as a word in said document; and
 - determining whether the word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in said document by comparing the word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries; and
 - when the word is determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, alerting the author; and
 - wherein a result of said word checking is communicated to the author while the author is still entering said text content of the document so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended recipient and so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein said result is communicated before the author has completed data input during a subsequent data input period intended for a subsequent word to be included in said document.
31. The method of claim 29, wherein when the word is determined to be potentially inappropriate the author is precluded from inputting additional words in said document until corrective action has been taken for such word.
32. The method of claim 29, wherein a check of the spelling of such word is also performed, and wherein the result of this spelling check is communicated to the author while said author is still entering said text content of the document.

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33. The method of claim 32, further including a step of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is misspelled, and if a substitute word is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether said substitute word has a meaning that is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in a text document by comparing said substitute word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file from said one or more word filter dictionaries, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file from said one or more word filter dictionaries, and further including a step of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.

35. The method of claim 29, further including a step of permitting the author to specify a rating threshold which must be exceeded in order for said word to be identified as potentially inappropriate.

36. Canceled

37. Canceled

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39. Canceled

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40. An electronic system for permitting a user to control which words are allowed in an electronic document before the electronic document is published, said system including:
- a system memory for storing a word checking software module;
 - a processing device for executing the word checking software module;
 - an electronic dictionary for identifying a set of filter words to be filtered from the electronic documents, said set of filter words being adjustable on a document by document basis and including both offensive words and/or potentially inappropriate words, and which potentially inappropriate words are determined by considering an identity of an audience intended to receive the electronic document; and
 - wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the following operations:
 - (i) retrieving words to be checked from the document;
 - (ii) determining whether said words from the document include any from said set of filter words;
 - (iii) controlling initial distribution of such electronic document on a document by document basis and/or a recipient by recipient basis based on steps (i) and (ii).
41. The system of claim 40, wherein the word checking software module designates said set of filter words by changing a value of a status field for such words in said electronic dictionary.
42. The system of claim 41, wherein the status field for each of the words in said electronic dictionary can have one of N values, where $N > 2$.
43. The system of claim 41, wherein said set of filter words can be identified without input from said user.
44. The system of claim 41, wherein an identification of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words can take place at or about the time the electronic dictionary is first generated.
45. The system of claim 40, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of generating an alert indicating that a word in the document is in said set of filter words.

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46. The system of claim 41, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of permitting said user to change the value of a status flag for words in said electronic dictionary.
47. The system of claim 40, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of verifying the spelling of words.
48. The system of claim 47, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of generating a list of substitute words in the event any word is misspelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word includes any word from said set of filter words.
49. The system of claim 40, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of checking a set of documents, and generating a list of words in such documents that are in said set of filter words.
50. The system of claim 40, wherein said words are checked substantially immediate in time after they are input into said document by a user.
51. The system of claim 40, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file forming part of said electronic dictionary, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file forming part of said electronic dictionary, and wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.
52. The system of claim 41, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of specifying a threshold value which the status field must exceed in order for words to be identified as part of said set of filter words.

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53. An article of manufacture comprising:
- an electronic dictionary including a set of words and a plurality of associated status fields for said set of words, each status field identifying an appropriateness rating for a particular audience for individual words in said set of words, such that an individual word can have a plurality of appropriateness ratings;
 - a word checking routine executable by a computing device and for checking whether words in an unpublished electronic text document should be included in a communication to a particular audience, and which routine is configured to perform the following operations:
 - [a] retrieving a word to be word checked from said electronic text document; and
 - [b] accessing the electronic dictionary to determine whether appropriateness rating of said word identified in a status field for said particular audience exceeds a threshold value specified for such document; and
 - [c] controlling an initial dissemination of such document based on checking said word; wherein the electronic dictionary and word checking routine are embodied in a computer readable media.
54. The article of claim 53, further including a spell checking routine for determining whether such word has been spelled correctly.
55. The article of claim 54, wherein the spell checking routine also presents a first list of alternative words as replacements for said word when it is misspelled, and permits a first replacement word to be substituted for said word.
56. The article of claim 55, wherein the word checking routine is also configured to determine whether said replacement word has an appropriateness rating that exceeds said threshold value for such document.
57. The article of claim 53, wherein the word checking routine is also configured to permit a user of the routine to change the appropriateness rating value of a status field for words in said electronic dictionary.

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58. The article of claim 53, wherein the word checking routine is also configured to check words substantially immediate in time after they are input into said electronic document by a user.
59. Canceled
60. The article of claim 53, wherein the computer readable media includes any of the following: a floppy disk, a hard disk, a CD-ROM, a magnetic tape, or a non-volatile semiconductor memory.
61. A system for permitting a user to check the meaning of words in an electronic document, said system including:
- a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module, such module being incorporated as part of a word processing program that can be executed by a computer processing device;
 - wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:
 - (i) retrieving said words to be checked from said document;
 - (ii) determining whether said word is inadvertently included and has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in said document; and
 - (iii) alerting a user to the presence of said word when it is designated as potentially inappropriate; and
 - (iv) allowing a user to modify said word in said document when it is designated as potentially inappropriate before transmitting said document to a third party; and
 - (v) allowing a user of said word checking software module to specify a rating value for a word to be used in determining whether such word is potentially inappropriate.

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62. The system of claim 61, further including an electronic dictionary for storing said words, and wherein the word checking software module designates words that have a meaning that is potentially inappropriate by changing said rating value in a status field for such words.
63. The system of claim 62, wherein said status field for each of the words can have one of N rating values, where $N > 2$.
64. Canceled
65. Canceled
66. The system of claim 61, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of verifying the spelling of said words.
67. The system of claim 66, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is misspelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word has a meaning that is potentially inappropriate for use in said document.
68. The system of claim 61, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of checking a set of documents, and generating a list of potentially inappropriate words in such documents.
69. The system of claim 61, wherein said word is checked substantially immediate in time after it is input into said document by a user.
70. The system of claim 61, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first electronic dictionary file, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second electronic dictionary file, and wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of determining whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings.

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71. The system of claim 61, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of specifying a threshold value which said rating value must exceed in order for said word to be identified as potentially inappropriate.
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72. An electronic dictionary embodied in computer readable form for use in controlling distribution of unpublished electronic documents created by a word processing program, said dictionary including:
- a set of words represented in computer readable form;
 - a first electronic dictionary incorporated as part of the electronic dictionary and being used for defining a first filter identifying any word in said set of words that is offensive; and
 - a second electronic dictionary separate from said first electronic dictionary and also incorporated as part of the electronic dictionary, said second electronic dictionary being customized for defining a second filter for identifying any word in said set of words that is potentially inappropriate for use in communications with a particular group of persons;
- wherein said first electronic dictionary and said second electronic dictionary are adapted for controlling distribution of unpublished electronic documents on a document by document basis and/or on a recipient by recipient basis.
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73. The dictionary of claim 72, wherein the first and second electronic dictionaries are modifiable by an author of an electronic document using the dictionary to check said document.
74. The dictionary of claim 73, wherein the first and second electronic dictionaries each have a status field which has one of N possible values, where $N > 2$, and where N corresponds to a degree of potential inappropriateness for a word associated with such status field.
75. The dictionary of claim 73, including at least a third electronic dictionary incorporated as part of the electronic dictionary and identifying any word that has a meaning that is potentially inappropriate for use with a second group of persons.

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76. A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document comprising the steps of:
- retrieving said word to be checked from the document;
 - determining with a first electronic language filter whether said word has a particular meaning that is likely to be offensive to intended recipients of such document; and
 - determining with a second electronic language filter whether said word is potentially inappropriate for use in communications to said intended recipients, based in part on considering an identity of said intended recipients;
- wherein said first electronic language filter and said second electronic language filter can be selected on a document by document basis and/or on a recipient by recipient basis.
77. The method of claim 76, further including a step of configuring said first and second language filters by changing a value of one or more status fields for such words in an electronic dictionary.
78. The method of claim 77, wherein said status fields for each of the words can have one of N values, where $N > 2$.
79. The method of claim 76, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that such word is within said first and/or second electronic language filter.
80. The method of claim 76, further including a step of verifying the spelling of such word.
81. The method of claim 80, further including a step of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is misspelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word has a meaning that is likely to be offensive.
82. The method of claim 76, wherein said word is checked by said first and second language filters substantially immediate in time after it is input into said document by a user.

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83. The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more electronic dictionaries correspond to one or more customized sets of filter words, each of said customized sets of filter words being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for a different intended recipient.
84. The method of claim 1, wherein a first electronic dictionary in said one or more electronic dictionaries is checked to determine if said word is offensive, and a second electronic dictionary in said one more electronic dictionaries is checked to determine if said word is potentially inappropriate for said intended recipient, said second electronic dictionary being customized to include words that may cause embarrassment or financial loss by their inclusion in the document to said intended recipient.
85. The method of claim 1, wherein a first electronic dictionary in said one or more electronic dictionaries is checked to determine if said word is offensive, and a plurality of second electronic dictionaries in said one or more electronic dictionaries are checked to determine if said word is potentially inappropriate for a plurality of intended recipients, said plurality of second electronic dictionaries being individually customized to include words that may cause embarrassment or financial loss by their inclusion in the document to said plurality of recipients.
86. The method of claim 84, wherein said sets of filter words are based on an ethnicity, gender and/or language-speaking characteristic of an intended recipient.
87. The method of claim 1, wherein said document includes an e-mail message, an electronic spreadsheet, an electronic database, or an electronic word processing document.
88. The method of claim 14, wherein said word is designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate based on an ethnicity, gender and/or language speaking characteristic of an intended recipient of said text document.
89. The method of claim 29, wherein said words are designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate based on an ethnicity, gender and/or language speaking characteristic of an intended recipient of said document.

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90. The method of claim 29, wherein said document is an e-mail message, an electronic spreadsheet, an electronic database, or an electronic word processing document.
91. The system of claim 41, wherein said filter words are based on an ethnicity, gender and/or language-speaking characteristic of an intended recipient of said document.
92. The system of claim 41, wherein the document is an e-mail message, an electronic spreadsheet, an electronic database, or an electronic word processing document.

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- CA 93. A method of checking content of an unpublished electronic document comprising the steps of:
- (a) specifying a language filter to be used for inspecting words of the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate content, said language filter being based in part on an identity of at one or more intended recipients of the electronic document;
wherein said language filter can be selected on a recipient by recipient basis, and/or on a document by document basis; and
 - (b) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document; and
 - (c) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said one or more intended recipients.
94. The method of claim 93, wherein a rating value for each word in the electronic document is compared against said language sensitivity threshold level to determine if such word should be identified as potentially inappropriate.
95. The method of claim 94, wherein said rating value and said language sensitivity threshold level are adjustable.
96. The method of claim 95, wherein said rating value is specified as a status field value in an electronic dictionary used as part of said language filter.

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97. A system for checking content of an unpublished electronic document comprising:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device; and

a language filter, which language filter is associated with a set of words that are potentially inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient of the electronic document; and

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) Specifying said language filter for checking the electronic document; wherein said language filter can be specified on a document by document basis and/or a recipient by recipient basis;
- (ii) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document;
- (iii) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient.

98. The system of claim 97, wherein a rating value for each word in the electronic document is compared against said language sensitivity threshold level to determine if such word should be identified as potentially inappropriate.

99. The system of claim 98, wherein said rating value and said language sensitivity threshold level are adjustable.

100. The system of claim 99, wherein said rating value is specified as a status field value in an electronic dictionary used as part of said language filter.

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101. A method of controlling distribution of an electronic document to prevent dissemination of embarrassing and/or harmful content in such electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) identifying offensive words that should not be included in an electronic document to be distributed to an intended third party recipient; and
- b) identifying potentially inappropriate words that should not be included in an electronic document to be distributed to said intended third party recipient, said potentially inappropriate words being based in part on a consideration of an identity of said intended third party recipient; and
- c) inspecting the document electronically before it is distributed to said intended third party recipient to see if it contains any of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words, so that a corrective action can be taken to eliminate said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words and/or to prevent distribution of the document wherein said offensive words and said potentially inappropriate words can be specified on a document by document basis and/or on a recipient by recipient basis.

102. The method of claim 101, further including a step: (d) replacing any offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words in the document as part of said corrective action.

103. The method of claim 101, wherein a status field rating for said offensive words and said potentially inappropriate words are set up by an author of the electronic document as part of an electronic language filter.

104. The method of claim 103, wherein an author of the electronic document also sets a threshold value which must be exceeded by said status field rating in order for a word to be considered as one of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words.

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108. The method of claim 105, further including a step of providing a threshold value which said first and/or second rating value must exceed before a word is identified as a context restricted word.

109. A system for checking the word content of an unpublished electronic document, the system including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

an electronic dictionary for storing dictionary words that can be used in the electronic document, said electronic dictionary being set up such that one or more status fields can be associated with such dictionary words, said status fields containing a rating for an offensiveness and/or inappropriateness of such dictionary word for a corresponding audience;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) selecting one or more language filters based on identifying which of said one or more status fields for said electronic dictionary words is/are to be used for checking words in the document;
- (ii) using said one or more language filters to check words used in the document against corresponding dictionary words by examining said rating in said status field(s);
- (iii) generating an alert when said one or more language filters detects a word that has a rating that indicates it is offensive and/or inappropriate for a corresponding audience;

wherein publication of the electronic document can be controlled so that when disseminated to third parties it only includes words that do not have a rating that indicates that such word is offensive and/or inappropriate for a corresponding audience.

110. The system of claim 109 wherein a rating in all of said status fields for a dictionary word is examined.

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105. A method of controlling language content of an electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) defining a word as offensive by specifying a first rating value for a first status field associated with said word in an electronic dictionary; and
- (b) defining a word as potentially inappropriate for communication with an intended recipient of the electronic document by specifying a second rating value for a second status field associated with said word in said electronic dictionary, said second rating value being based in part on a consideration of a gender, language use and/or ethnicity of said particular recipient; and
- (c) entering text words for the language content of the electronic document; and
- (d) selecting whether said first status field and/or said second status field in said electronic dictionary should be used for examining said text words; and
- (e) reviewing the text words in accordance with step (d) to determine if any context restricted words are contained in the electronic document, said context restricted words including text words that are offensive and/or potentially inappropriate as defined in steps (a) and (b); and
- (f) identifying any context restricted words in the electronic document before such document is transmitted to said intended recipient so that said context restricted words can be modified or eliminated.

106. The method of claim 105 wherein steps (a) and (b) are controllable by an author of the electronic document to customize a set of offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words.

107. The method of claim 105 further including a step (b)': defining a word as potentially inappropriate for communication with a second intended recipient of the electronic document by specifying a third rating value for a third status field associated with said word in said electronic dictionary, said third rating value being based on a consideration of a gender, language use and/or ethnicity of said second intended recipient.

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111. The system of claim 109 wherein said word checking software indicates which of said one or more language filters has detected a word that has a rating indicating that it is offensive and/or inappropriate for a corresponding audience.
112. The system of claim 109 wherein said rating can be varied to have a value from a scale of 1 to N, and where a higher value indicates a higher level of offensiveness of such word for said corresponding audience.
113. The system of claim 112 wherein a threshold value can be specified for determining when an alert should be generated, based on comparing said rating in said status field to said threshold value.
114. The system of claim 109 wherein an author of said electronic document can control which language filters are used for checking said document.

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115. A method of checking content of an electronic document which has not been published comprising the steps of:

- (a) configuring a language filter to be used for inspecting content of the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate text, said language filter being configured based in part on an identity of intended recipients of the electronic document; and
- (b) detecting whether said electronic document includes words specified within said language filter; and
- (c) generating an output indicating the presence of any words detected during step (b) so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended recipients and so as to control initial publication of such electronic document; wherein said language filter can be adjusted during step (a) as needed according to said identity of said intended recipients so that initial publication of such electronic document can be controlled on a document by document basis and/or a recipient by recipient basis.

116. The method of claim 115 further including a step of setting up said language filter by specifying a first language filter intended for a first audience for the electronic document, and a second language filter intended for a second audience for the electronic document, each of said first and second language filters containing words that are potentially inappropriate for use with said first and second audiences respectively.

117. The method of claim 116, wherein during step (a) said language filter is configured by setting status field values for words within either or both of said first and/or second language filters.

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118. A method of checking content of an electronic document that has not been published to an intended recipient comprising the steps of:

- (a) retrieving a word from the electronic document;
- (b) inspecting said word with a language filter selected for the electronic document, said language filter being adjustable on a document by document basis and consisting of either or both of a first language filter and/or a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;

wherein a decision to initially distribute the electronic document, including to an intended recipient within said first group of persons or said second group of persons, is based on a result of step (b), and is done on a recipient by recipient basis.

119. The method of claim 118 further including a step prior to (a) of: setting up said first and/or second language filters as part of an electronic dictionary having one or more customized electronic dictionaries containing words corresponding to said first and second language filters.

120. The method of claim 119 wherein said first language filter includes words that are offensive and/or obscene.

121. The method of claim 120 wherein said second language filter includes words that may cause embarrassment or financial loss by their inclusion in the electronic document.

122. The method of claim 118 wherein when said word is included within either of said first language filter and/or second language filter, an indication of which of said first language filter and/or second language filters was triggered is provided.

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C13 123. A system for checking content of an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published, the system including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a configurable language filter, which configurable language filter contains words to be used for checking the content of the electronic document, and which configurable language filter can be adjusted on a recipient by recipient basis and/or on document by document basis;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) configuring said configurable language filter based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document;
- (ii) using said configurable language filter to check words used in the document;
- (iii) generating an alert when said configurable language filter is triggered;

wherein initial dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled on a document by document basis based on whether the content is appropriate for an intended audience of such electronic document.

124. The system of claim 123, wherein said configurable language filter includes a first language filter and a second language filter as part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.

125. The system of claim 123, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.

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C14 126. A system for checking content of an electronic document including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a language filter consisting of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters for checking words in the document based in part on whether an intended recipient of the electronic document is identified with either or both of said first group of persons or said second group of persons;
- (ii) using either or both of said first and/or second language filters to check words used in the document;
- (iii) generating an indicator when either or both of said first and/or second language filters is triggered;

wherein dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled on a recipient by recipient basis and/or a document by document basis based on whether words contained therein are appropriate for an intended recipient.

127. The system of claim 126, wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.

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128. The system of claim 127, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.
-
- C19 129. A method of checking content of electronic documents comprising the steps of:
- (a) retrieving a word from a first electronic document; and
 - (b) inspecting said word with a language filter selected for the first electronic document, said language filter consisting of either or both of a first language filter and/or a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons; and
 - (c) identifying whether said word falls within said first language filter and/or said second language filter; and
 - (d) repeating steps (a) through (c) for said first electronic document until all words in said first electronic document are inspected; and
 - (e) repeating steps (a) through (d) for a second electronic document, wherein a language filter selected for the second electronic document can be varied from that used for said first electronic document so that a language filter can be selected on a document by document basis and/or a group by group basis.
-
130. The method of claim 129, wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.
131. The method of claim 129, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.

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c 16
132. A system for checking content of electronic documents including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a language filter comprised of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters as said language filter for checking content of electronic documents on a document by document basis and/or on a group by group basis such that said first language filter can be used when said electronic document is a first type of document to be disseminated to said first group of persons, while said second language filter can be used when said electronic document is a second type of document to be disseminated to said second group of persons;
- (ii) using said language filter to check words used in said electronic documents;
- (iii) generating an alert when said language filter is triggered;

wherein dissemination of said electronic documents, including both said first type of documents and said second type of documents, can be controlled based on whether the content therein is appropriate for an intended audience, including said first and second groups of persons.

133. The system of claim 132, wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.

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134. The system of claim 132, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.

CM 135. A method of inspecting and verifying content of electronic documents comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing one or more electronic documents whose contents are to be checked; and
- (b) providing a set of language filters, each of said language filters being associated with a set of words that are inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient group for said one or more electronic documents; and
- (c) selecting one or more of said language filters based in part on an intended recipient group identified for each of said one or more document, such that a language filter can be specified on a document by document basis and/or a group by group basis; and
- (d) checking a content of said one or more electronic documents using any language filters selected for said one or more electronic documents respectively during step (c); and
- (e) identifying whether any of said one or more electronic documents contain words that trigger said selected language filters.

136. The method of claim 135, wherein different language filters can be used for different electronic documents and different recipient groups.

137. The method of claim 135, wherein at least one of said language filters contains words whose common usage is considered offensive.

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- C18
138. A system for inspecting and verifying content of electronic documents including:
- a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device; and
 - a set of language filters, each of said language filters being associated with a set of words that are inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient group for one or more electronic documents; and
- wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:
- (i) selecting one or more of said language filters based in part on an intended recipient group identified for each of said one or more documents, such that a language filter can be specified on a document by document basis and/or a group by group basis; and
 - (ii) checking a content of said one or more electronic documents using any language filters selected for said one or more electronic documents respectively;
 - (iii) identifying whether any of said one or more electronic documents contain words that trigger said selected language filters.

wherein said system can process electronic documents individually or as a batch.

139. The system of claim 138, wherein different language filters can be used for different electronic documents and different recipient groups.
140. The system of claim 139, wherein at least one of said language filters contains words whose common usage is considered offensive.

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- c19
141. A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published, the method comprising the steps of:
- designating filter words by changing a value of a filter status field for words in one or more electronic dictionaries;
 - retrieving said word to be checked from said document;
 - selecting a set of filter words from said one or more electronic dictionaries to be used for checking said word, said set of filter words being based in part on considering an identity of an intended recipient of said electronic document;
 - determining whether said word has a particular meaning that is (1) designated as offensive in said set of filter words; and/or (2) is designated as potentially inappropriate in said set of filter words for communication to said intended recipient;
 - wherein the electronic document is checked so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient.
142. The method of claim 141, wherein the filter status field for each of the words can have one of N values, where $N > 2$, and where N designates whether each of said words is offensive or potentially inappropriate.
143. The method of claim 141, wherein said set of filter words can be selected without input from an author of the document.
144. The method of claim 141, wherein an identification of said set of filter words can take place at or about the time said one or more electronic dictionaries are first generated.
145. The method of claim 141, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that such word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.
146. The method of claim 143, further including a step of permitting a user to remove said word from said set of filter words.
147. The method of claim 141, further including a step of specifying a threshold value which the filter status field must exceed in order for said word to be identified as belonging to said set of filter words.

APPENDIX OF PENDING CLAIMS FOR SERIAL NO. 09/014,414

148. A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published the method comprising the steps of:
- providing one or more electronic dictionaries, including a first dictionary file to be used for electronic documents sent to a first audience, and a second dictionary file to be used for documents sent to a second audience;
 - retrieving the word to be checked from the document, wherein the word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in said first dictionary file and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in said second dictionary file;
 - selecting a set of filter words from said one or more electronic dictionaries to be used for checking said word, said set of filter words being based in part on considering an identity of an intended recipient of said electronic document;
 - determining whether said word has a particular meaning that is (1) designated as offensive in said set of filter words; and/or (2) is designated as potentially inappropriate for communication to said intended recipient in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings in said set of filter words;
 - wherein the electronic document is checked so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient.
149. The method of claim 148, wherein said first context and said second context are based on word meanings of two different languages.
150. The method of claim 148, wherein said first context and said second context are based on gender distinctions.
151. The method of claim 148, wherein said first context and said second context are based on cultural characteristics of two different groups.

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152. A method of permitting an author of an electronic document to simultaneously check both the spelling and meaning of words in such document comprising the steps of:
- (a) retrieving a word to be spell checked and word checked from said document; and
 - (b) determining whether said word has been spelled correctly; and
 - (c) when said word has been spelled incorrectly, presenting a first list of alternative words to said user as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a first replacement word for said word; and
 - (d) designating those words that have a meaning that is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate by changing a value of a status field for such words in an electronic dictionary, wherein said designation is modifiable by the author;
 - (e) determining whether the meaning of said word or replacement word has a designation as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in a text document; and
 - (f) when said word has been designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, presenting a second list of alternative words to said author as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a second replacement word for said word.
153. The method of claim 152, further including a step (g): permitting said author to select said word, the first replacement word, or the second replacement word.
154. The method of claim 152, further including a step (g): repeating steps [e] and [f] as necessary so that a word is selected that is not designated as potentially inappropriate, or said author is permitted to select a word by manual override.
155. The method of claim 152, wherein those words that have an offensive and/or a potentially inappropriate meaning can be identified initially without input from a user of such electronic dictionary.
156. The method of claim 152, wherein an identification of potentially inappropriate words can take place at or about the time the electronic dictionary is first generated.
157. The method of claim 152, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that such word is potentially inappropriate.

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158. A method of permitting an author of an electronic document to simultaneously check both the spelling and meaning of words in such document comprising the steps of:
- (a) retrieving a word to be spell checked and word checked from said document; and
 - (b) determining whether said word has been spelled correctly; and
 - (c) when said word has been spelled incorrectly, presenting a first list of alternative words to said user as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a first replacement word for said word; and
 - (d) determining whether the meaning of said word or replacement word has a designation as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in a text document, said designation being modifiable by the author; and
 - (e) when said word has been designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, presenting a second list of alternative words to said author as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a second replacement word for said word;
 - (f) permitting an author to change the value of a status flag for such word to change said designation.

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159. A method of permitting an author of an electronic document to simultaneously check both the spelling and meaning of words in such document comprising the steps of:

- (a) retrieving a word to be spell checked and word checked from said document, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file for a first audience, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file for a second audience; and
- (b) determining whether said word has been spelled correctly; and
- (c) when said word has been spelled incorrectly, presenting a first list of alternative words to said user as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a first replacement word for said word; and
- (d) determining whether the meaning of said word or replacement word has a designation as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings, said designation being modifiable by the author; and
- (e) when said word has been designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, presenting a second list of alternative words to said author as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a second replacement word for said word.

APPENDIX OF PENDING CLAIMS FOR SERIAL NO. 09/014,414

160. A method of word checking an electronic document generated by a word processing program under control of a user of said program, said method comprising the steps of:
- (a) storing word-checking status information for said document, including a table identifying offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words used in said document;
 - (b) monitoring interaction between said user and said word processing program to identify idle editing periods;
 - (c) locating offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words in said document during the idle editing periods, and updating the word checking status information in response thereto as needed; and
 - (d) modifying a word filter electronic dictionary containing said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words based on input from the user, so that the user can control which words in said document are to be identified in said table; and
 - (e) permitting a user to specify a rating threshold which must be exceeded in order for said word to be identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.

APPENDIX OF PENDING CLAIMS FOR SERIAL NO. 09/014,414

161. A method of automatically word checking an electronic document as it is generated by a user and before such electronic document is published, comprising the steps of:
- (a) allowing the user to specify one or more word filter dictionaries to be used for filtering text content of the document, where at least one of said one or more word filter dictionaries is selected based on an intended audience for the electronic document; and
 - (b) permitting the user to specify a rating threshold which must be exceeded in order for said text content to be identified as potentially inappropriate;
 - (c) monitoring data input by the user during a data input period that is intended to be included as a word in said document; and
 - (d) determining whether the word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in said document by comparing the word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries; and
 - (e) when the word is determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, alerting the user; and
- wherein a result of said word checking is communicated to the user while the user is still entering said text content of the document so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended recipient and so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document.
162. The method of claim 161, wherein said result is communicated before the user has completed data input during a subsequent data input period intended for a subsequent word to be included in said document.
163. The method of claim 161, wherein when the word is determined to be potentially inappropriate the user is precluded from inputting additional words in said document until corrective action has been taken for such word.
164. The method of claim 161, wherein a check of the spelling of such word is also performed, and wherein the result of this spelling check is communicated to the user while said user is still entering said text content of the document.

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165. The method of claim 161, further including a step of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is misspelled, and if a substitute word is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether said substitute word has a meaning that is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in a text document by comparing said substitute word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries.

166. A method of automatically word checking an electronic document as it is generated by a user and before such electronic document is published, comprising the steps of:
- (a) allowing the user to specify one or more word filter dictionaries to be used for filtering text content of the document, where at least one of said one or more word filter dictionaries is selected based on an intended audience for the electronic document; and
 - (b) monitoring data input by the user during a data input period that is intended to be included as a word in said document, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file from said one or more word filter dictionaries, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file from said one or more word filter dictionaries; and
 - (c) determining whether the word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in said document by comparing the word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries, including said first dictionary file and said second dictionary file such that said word is analyzed in both the first and second contexts by examining said first and second ratings; and
 - (d) when the word is determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, alerting the user; and
- wherein a result of said word checking is communicated to the user while the user is still entering said text content of the document so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended recipient and so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document.

167. An electronic system for permitting a user to control which words are allowed in an electronic document before the electronic document is published, said system including:
- a system memory for storing a word checking software module;
 - a processing device for executing the word checking software module;
 - an electronic dictionary for identifying a set of filter words to be filtered from the electronic documents, said set of filter words including both offensive words and/or potentially inappropriate words, and which potentially inappropriate words are determined by considering an identity of an audience intended to receive the electronic document; and
- wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the following operations:
- (i) retrieving words to be checked from the document; and
 - (ii) designating said set of filter words by changing a value of a status field for such words in said electronic dictionary; and
 - (iii) determining whether said words from the document include any from said set of filter words; and
 - (iv) controlling initial distribution of such electronic document based on steps (i) and (ii).
168. The system of claim 167, wherein the status field for each of the words in said electronic dictionary can have one of N values, where $N > 2$.
169. The system of claim 167, wherein said set of filter words can be identified without input from said user.
170. The system of claim 167, wherein an identification of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words can take place at or about the time the electronic dictionary is first generated.
171. The system of claim 167, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of generating an alert indicating that a word in the document is in said set of filter words.

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172. The system of claim 167, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of permitting said user to change the value of a status flag for words in said electronic dictionary.
173. The system of claim 167, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of verifying the spelling of words.
174. The system of claim 173, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of generating a list of substitute words in the event any word is misspelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word includes any word from said set of filter words.
175. The system of claim 167, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of checking a set of documents, and generating a list of words in such documents that are in said set of filter words.
176. The system of claim 167, wherein said words are checked substantially immediate in time after they are input into said document by a user.
177. The system of claim 167, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of specifying a threshold value which the status field must exceed in order for words to be identified as part of said set of filter words.

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178. An electronic system for permitting a user to control which words are allowed in an electronic document before the electronic document is published, said system including:

a system memory for storing a word checking software module;
a processing device for executing the word checking software module;
an electronic dictionary for identifying a set of filter words to be filtered from the electronic documents, said set of filter words including both offensive words and/or potentially inappropriate words, and which potentially inappropriate words are determined by considering an identity of an audience intended to receive the electronic document, and such that said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file forming part of said electronic dictionary, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file forming part of said electronic dictionary; and

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the following operations:

- (i) retrieving words to be checked from the document; and
- (ii) determining whether said words from the document include any from said set of filter words, including by examining said first and second ratings to determine whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts; and
- (iii) controlling initial distribution of such electronic document based on steps (i) and (ii).

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179. A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document comprising the steps of:
- (a) retrieving a word to be checked from the document; and
 - (b) determining with a first electronic language filter whether said word has a particular meaning that is likely to be offensive to persons intended to read such document; and
 - (c) determining with a second electronic language filter whether said word is potentially inappropriate for use in communications to said persons, based in part on considering an identity of said persons; and
 - (d) configuring said first and second language filters by changing a value of one or more status fields for such words in an electronic dictionary.
180. The method of claim 179, wherein said status fields for each of the words can have one of N values, where $N > 2$.
181. The method of claim 179, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that a word is within said first and/or second electronic language filter.
182. The method of claim 179, further including a step of verifying the spelling of such word.
183. The method of claim 182, further including a step of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is misspelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word has a meaning that is likely to be offensive.
184. The method of claim 179, wherein said word is checked by said first and second language filters substantially immediate in time after it is input into said document by a user.
185. The method of claim 179, wherein the document is an e-mail message, an electronic spreadsheet, an electronic database, or an electronic word processing document.

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186. A method of checking content of an unpublished electronic document comprising the steps of:
- (a) specifying a language filter to be used for inspecting words of the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate content, said language filter being based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document; and
 - (b) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document, such that a rating value for each word in the electronic document is compared against said language sensitivity threshold level to determine if such word should be identified as potentially inappropriate; and
 - (c) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient.
187. The method of claim 186, wherein said rating value and said language sensitivity threshold level are adjustable.
188. The method of claim 186, wherein said rating value is specified as a status field value in an electronic dictionary used as part of said language filter.

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189. A system for checking content of an unpublished electronic document comprising:
- a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device; and
 - a language filter, which language filter is associated with a set of words that are potentially inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient of the electronic document; and
- wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:
- (i) Specifying said language filter for checking the electronic document;
 - (ii) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document;
 - (iii) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient;
- wherein a rating value for each word in the electronic document is compared against said language sensitivity threshold level to determine if such word should be identified as potentially inappropriate
190. The system of claim 189, wherein said rating value and said language sensitivity threshold level are adjustable.
191. The system of claim 190, wherein said rating value is specified as a status field value in an electronic dictionary used as part of said language filter.

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192. A method of controlling distribution of an electronic document to prevent dissemination of embarrassing and/or harmful content in such electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

- CA 19
- (a) identifying offensive words that should not be included in an electronic document to be distributed to an intended third party recipient; and
 - (b) identifying potentially inappropriate words that should not be included in an electronic document to be distributed to said intended third party recipient, said potentially inappropriate words being based in part on a consideration of an identity of said intended third party recipient; and
 - (c) inspecting the document electronically before it is distributed to said intended third party recipient to see if it contains any of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words, so that a corrective action can be taken to eliminate said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words and/or to prevent distribution of the document.

wherein a status field rating for said offensive words and said potentially inappropriate words are set up by an author of the electronic document as part of an electronic language filter.

193. The method of claim 192, further including a step: (d) replacing any offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words in the document as part of said corrective action.

194. The method of claim 192, wherein an author of the electronic document also sets a threshold value which must be exceeded by said status field rating in order for a word to be considered as one of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words.

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195. A method of checking content of an electronic document which has not been published comprising the steps of:
- (a) configuring a language filter to be used for inspecting content of the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate text, said language filter being configured based in part on an identity of intended recipients of the electronic document; and (b)
 - (b) detecting whether said electronic document includes words specified within said language filter; and (c)
 - (c) generating an output indicating the presence of any words detected during step (b) so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended recipients and so as to control initial publication of such electronic document;
- wherein said language filter can be adjusted during step (a) as needed according to said identity of said intended recipients, is configured by setting status field values for words within either or both of said first and/or second language filters.
196. The method of claim 115 further including a step of setting up said language filter by specifying a first language filter intended for a first audience for the electronic document, and a second language filter intended for a second audience for the electronic document, each of said first and second language filters containing words that are potentially inappropriate for use with said first and second audiences respectively.

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197. A system for checking content of an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published, the system including:
- a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;
 - a configurable language filter, which language filter contains words to be used for checking the content of the electronic document;
 - wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:
 - (i) configuring said configurable language filter based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document;
wherein said configurable language filter includes a first language filter and a second language filter as part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file;
 - (ii) using said configurable language filter to check words used in the document;
 - (iii) generating an alert when said configurable language filter is triggered;
wherein initial dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled based on whether the content is appropriate for an intended audience of such electronic document.
198. The system of claim 197, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.

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199. A system for checking content of an electronic document including:
- a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;
 - a language filter consisting of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;
 - wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file;
 - wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:
 - (i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters for checking words in the document based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document; (ii)
 - (ii) using either or both of said first and/or second language filters to check words used in the document;
 - (iii) generating an indicator when either or both of said first and/or second language filters is triggered;
 - wherein dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled based on whether words contained therein are appropriate for an intended audience.
200. The system of claim 199, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.

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201. A method of checking content of electronic documents comprising the steps of:

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- (a) retrieving a word from a first electronic document; and
 - (b) inspecting said word with a language filter selected for the first electronic document, said language filter consisting of either or both of a first language filter and/or a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons; and
 - (c) identifying whether said word falls within said first language filter and/or said second language filter; and
 - (d) repeating steps (a) through (c) for said first electronic document until all words in said first electronic document are inspected; and
 - (e) repeating steps (a) through (d) for a second electronic document, wherein a language filter selected for the second electronic document can be varied from that used for said first electronic document;

wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.

202. The method of claim 201, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.

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203. A system for checking content of electronic documents including:
- a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;
 - a language filter comprised of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;
- wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:
- (i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters as said language filter for checking content of electronic documents such that said first language filter can be used when said electronic document is a first type of document to be disseminated to said first group of persons, while said second language filter can be used when said electronic document is a second type of document to be disseminated to said second group of persons;
 - (ii) using said language filter to check words used in said electronic documents;
 - (iii) generating an alert when said language filter is triggered;
- wherein dissemination of said electronic documents, including both said first type of documents and said second type of documents, can be controlled based on whether the content therein is appropriate for an intended audience, including said first and second groups of persons;
- and further wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.
204. The system of claim 203, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to

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cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.

